



NEWS RELEASE
*Office of the
United States Attorney
for the
District of Nebraska*
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December 14, 2009

United States Attorney Deborah R. Gilg and the Nebraska State Patrol announce the following information for the attention of the media:

Event Triggering this Release:

The Honorable Richard G. Kopf, United States District Judge in Lincoln, Nebraska, on December 11, 2009, sentenced Aaron Lawless to 8 1/2 months imprisonment (time served) following his conviction for possession of an unregistered machine gun. On November 25, 2008, a trooper with the Nebraska State Patrol stopped a vehicle owned and driven by Aaron Lawless for speeding. As he was pulling over to stop, Lawless threw a marijuana pipe out of the vehicle, and when he was interviewed by the trooper, Lawless admitted smoking marijuana about 90 minutes previously. Two machine guns were found in the car that were owned by the passenger who was traveling with Lawless. Neither machine gun bore a serial number, and neither machine gun was registered to either Lawless or his passenger in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record. Lawless admitted that he had been shooting the firearms near Cozad, Nebraska, earlier on November 25, 2008. He also admitted that he knew the machine guns were homemade and had no serial numbers. Mr. Lawless was indicted by a federal grand jury in November, 2008, pled guilty in September, 2009, and was sentenced on December 11, 2009. Lawless, who was found to have both Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Bipolar Disorder, was also placed on supervised release for three years and ordered to enroll in an in-patient treatment program for PTSD.

Name of Defendant: Aaron Joshua Lawless

AKA:

Age: 24

City of Residence: Kearney, Nebraska

Crime(s) Charged and Potential Penalty: Possession of Unregistered Machine Gun - 10 years imprisonment; \$250,000 fine; 3 years term of supervised release, and \$100 special assessment.

Specific Location of Alleged Crime: Kearney, Nebraska

Location of Arrest: N/A

Alleged Dollar Loss/Type and Quantity of Drug: N/A

Others Charged in Same Scheme: None

Relevant Dates:

Date of Alleged Crime: 11/25/2008

Federal Arrest Date: 02/09/2009

Date Complaint Issued: N/A

Indictment Returned Date: 11/25/2008

Initial Appearance Date: 02/09/2009

Plea or Trial and Date(s): 09/09/2009

Sentencing Date: 12/11/2009

Next Court Hearing Type and Date: N/A

Assigned Magistrate Judge: David Piester

Held without Bond, or Released from Custody: Held without Bond

In Continuous Custody Since: 03/25/2009

Assigned District Court Judge: Richard Kopf

Initials of Assigned AUSA/Preparer of THIS Release: ALE